

Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Shares Second Award from The Duke Endowment

(Irmo, SC) Trustees of The Duke Endowment awarded a grant of \$291,576 to the Lutheran Wellspring Alliance of the Carolinas, a healthcare collaborative formed by Irmo based Lutheran Homes of South Carolina (LHSC) and Salisbury, NC based Lutheran Services for the Aging (LSA). The grant will fund the second year of “New Pathways,” a revolutionary healthcare initiative designed to improve the quality of care and the quality of life for residents in the Alliance’s nine nursing centers across the Carolinas.

“The continued generosity of The Duke Endowment is significant to support our commitment to enhance the quality of life for over 800 residents in our nursing centers across the Carolinas,” notes Warren Page, Vice President of Operations for Lutheran Homes of South Carolina. “Culture change followers across the country are eager to learn from our program successes.”

The Duke Endowment awarded the Alliance \$484,457 in 2004 and indicates its intent to continue support as the programs continue to meet stated objectives. “We’ve seen from the first year of this project encouraging results related to improved quality of services and decreased staff turnover,” said Mary L. Piepenbring, director of the Health Care Division of The Duke Endowment. “We are happy about the progress to date and are pleased to be able to make this grant.”

The majority of grant funds will be dedicated to continue training staff at the nine nursing centers comprising the Alliance. According to Page, “The training our staff receives empowers direct-line caregivers to help make key decisions impacting the overall culture and quality of life in our communities. In turn, improving the quality of care for our residents provides a dual benefit of creating a more rewarding work environment for our caregiver teams.”

Established in 1924 by North Carolina industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is one of the nation’s largest private foundations. Its mission is to serve the people of North Carolina and South Carolina by supporting select programs of higher education, health care, children’s welfare, and spiritual life.

Lutheran Homes of South Carolina is a non-profit ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, providing comprehensive residential living and health services to over 1100 residents and hospice patients across the state. The South Carolina partnership of the Lutheran Wellspring Alliance of the Carolinas includes nursing centers at Lowman Home in White Rock, Rice Home in NE Columbia, RoseCrest Retirement Community in Inman and Franke at Seaside in Mt Pleasant.

